Mr George Delaplaine
News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

1/3/88

Dear George,

Under our system - a system to the viability of which I have devoted the equivalent of an unpaid working lifetime-you and your family have every right to be unfair, biased and even dishonest. Our system has the abuse of itself built-in. This, I believe, amounts to subversion because it deceives and misleads the electorate.

You have every right to pay a Roy Meachum to be a virtual adjunct of the PLO and its multitudinous terrorists. The nature and extent of his abuses, especially the anti-Semitism and Anti-Israeli columns, are your (pl) responsibility because you paid for them and persisted in paying him to continue them. And, of course, because you paid no one to present the other side.

When Mike Powell supervised the editorial and oped pages, he made an effort to be fair. This effort disappeared when he no longer edited those pages.

After demonstration of both his editorial incompetence in editing a submission and his failure to use a letter I phoned before taking more time when I am of limited energy and have vision that is more impaired from surgery on my better eye, I was encouraged to continue to make further submissions. None has appeared since then, no offering for the oped page and no letter.

I do not question the right not to use anything at all. I do question to decency of misleading me and the honesty of not using what I was encouraged to submit. If these were not preserved in your offices I can provide copies if you have been told such things, if you were told anything, as that this material was not up to your editorial standards. One was on the ACLU, some time before the election, and I think that unlike what it was intended to address that you published it was factually correct and lacking in bias.

Your papers does not require experts on foreign affairs and you have none. Thus there is no reason to believe that your staff could recognize in the Stein mishmash you publish today the factual and prejudicial error in it.

It happens that in one of the letters I sent that was censored and did not appear I addressed in advance one of the basic factual errors in Stein's superficiality. It is quite simply this: the PLO did not recognized the State of Israel's right to exist and, despite the misrepresentations of it, Arafat didn't either, while he pretended to. ~~and if he~~ He does not have the power to make binding decisions for the executive committee. The only state Arafat mentioned by name as having a right to exist is the one state that does not exist, Palestine. Other than this he actually referred to people, not states.

I think it is in that letter that I pointed out how meaningless any promise by Arafat is when immediately after it was pretendedly made we had the Christmas present

of the subhuman murder of about 260 people, mostly American and mostly more than five miles in the air. If Arafat really wants to end terrorism it is, I believe, more than merely apparent that he cannot. So, what good is his promise?

You empower your employees to make judgements, which does not absolve you from the ultimate responsibility.

Stein also lied, whether ~~or not~~ he did this from ignorance only or not, and his letter was worthy of publication so your readers could read what he wrote. (One of the examples is "the military right of all the Arab nations cannot match that of Israel." This has never been true and today there are individual Arab states that have greater military might. Iraq, for example, which also has and used ~~gas~~ poison gas. another is that Israel has been "changing the rules of the game" although it has, at considerable cost, lived up to the Camp David accords that the Arab states do not abide by.) Whether or not you ordered it, your papers have refused to publish the other side that I submitted.

I do not question your right. I do question the honesty, the fairness and the propriety under our system and the obligations it imposes on those it enables to get wealthy under it. More so when there is the monopoly you enjoy.

This is your responsibility. Maybe you do not care but you deceive yourself if you ~~for a minute~~ do not believe that many people in this area regard your record as I do, as deliberately dishonest and intendedly unfair - as what on some ~~issues~~ matters it certainly is, like on anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism. A not insignificant number of gentiles, including some who have written in opposition to what I wrote, have taken the time to tell me this.

I do regret that your policy is unfair and dishonest and I regret also that you are responsible for it.

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg